



CORNELL LAW LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

January 1999 - June 2000

Web Activities

- ▶ Reorganization and redesign of the library Web Site. Unveiled in April 2000, it is designed as the **one-stop shopping place for faculty and student research**, to provide efficiencies when teaching, or answering questions. Major strengths include Legal Research Encyclopedia, Foreign and International Law Guide, InSITE -- an annotated, fully searchable database of new legal web sites, and the two mirror sites now fully operational -- ICJ (International Court of Justice) on law school server, and ILO (International Labor Organization) on Prof. Eisenberg's server (jointly purchased with Library). See "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: A Vision for the Future," AALL Spectrum 28 (March 2000) by Claire Germain.
 - ▶ Law Library has become the official partner with **Hein Digital Journals Project**, now hosted at Cornell Information Technologies, at heinonline.org. Hein will digitize all issues of Cornell Law Quarterly (now Cornell Law Review) from inception to date.
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Classes Taught and Integration into Curriculum

- ▶ In the fall of 1999, in response to alumni requests for better research skills for students, the law-trained research instructors started teaching the Legal Research part of Legal Methods, a year-long course taught to first years, in collaboration with the legal writing instructors. Six lawyer-librarians are involved in the course. Each instructor develops the curriculum for, and teaches a small section of 32 students, with a series of lectures, and small group sessions in the Reading Room and in the Computer Lab. See "Legal Research in the Internet Age", Cornell Law Forum 15-17 (March 2000), by Charlotte Bynum & Claire Germain.



*Claire M. Germain (left), Delphine Simon '01 (front),
Charlotte L. Bynum, and Nicolas C. Michon '01.*

- ▶ In order to bridge the gap between academic research and the practice of law, several lawyer-librarians started team-teaching a new class, a three hour credit course in the spring of 1999, and again in 2000, "Advanced Legal Research." The goal is to help

students function more productively in the law office of the future.

- ▶ Instruction during substantive law classes, in 1999 and 2000: International Criminal Law (Charlotte Bynum), Immigration Law (Pat Court), European Union Law (Charlotte Bynum), Employment Discrimination law (Pat Court).
- ▶ "[Sail into Summer Program](#)", May 1999 and 2000. Very popular, provides research refresher to students before their summer clerkships.
- ▶ Numerous individual research appointments with faculty and students.



Left to Right: *Mark Lembke*, LL.M.' 2000 (Germany); Professor *Claire Germain*, Edward Cornell Law Librarian; *Christophe Zimmerli*, LL.M.' 2000 (Switzerland)

- ▶ Integration of [rare books](#) into the curriculum, through several exhibits and presentations to alumni and students. Sessions held during first year Legal Methods (Oct. 1999). French Law Class (Jan. 2000), and English Legal History (Feb. 2000).
- ▶ Presented sessions on Rare Books and Surfing the Internet at 1999 Alumni Reunion; offered CLE program to alumni during 2000 Alumni Reunion: "[Distance Learning, Internet Legal Research, and the Future](#)" (with Peter Martin).

The Collection

- ▶ Joined [NELLCO](#), the New England Consortium of Law Libraries -- to achieve cost-savings in databases and sharing of collections and staff expertise. Other libraries include Harvard, Yale, Penn, NYU, Columbia, Connecticut, etc.
- ▶ Major Progress on the **analysis of the library foreign law collection, with 110 countries inventoried**, and more on the way, in order to determine what to keep in print and what to choose in electronic format. Several countries have appeared as web guides, with more coming soon.
- ▶ **Reclassification of the foreign law collection** -- over 22,000 titles, including both serials and monographs-- from the old Los Angeles County law classification to Library of Congress call number system. Resulted in the integration of these materials with the rest of the Law Library's collection, and enhanced accessibility and ease of use. This is a five-year project, mostly completed as of March 2000.
- ▶ Conversion of many thousands of pre-1973 bibliographic records **from card form to online form**. Begun in 1989, this project was brought to completion in March 2000.

- ▶ Made available to faculty and students on Library web site a series of **commercial web services**, such as [Matthew Bender](#) treatises and handbooks, [University of Oxford journals](#), [Casestream](#) -- a database of docketed cases, and [Loislaw](#), a legal online provider (free for law schools).
- ▶ **Low level of Law library acquisitions funding** led to cancellations and a reevaluation of print holdings. Much staff time was spent reviewing expensive serials and cancelling some of them after consultation with faculty. Library working on strategy to manage increased costs. Cancellation of: duplicate U.S. law, official state reports, selected expensive serials, some Australian, Canadian and U.K. publications (in reliance on Internet governmental sources).

Technology

- ▶ Successful **transition** of Technical Services staff from Macintosh computer platform to PCs and Windows NT operating system, in preparation for the implementation of **Voyager**, Cornell University's new library catalog system. A number of Public Services computers are also being replaced to accommodate the migration to Voyager. This was a cooperative effort of Law Library staff, CUL technology staff, and Law School IT staff.
- ▶ Implemented new online system [Illiad](#) for our users to request **Interlibrary Loans**, to improve the speed and delivery options to get materials in their hands more quickly and efficiently.

Special Faculty Services

- ▶ "[Faculty Liaison](#)" program, whereby each of the five lawyer-librarians is assigned to a number of law faculty. They visit their faculty regularly, have developed a research profile, and keep them abreast of new publications and web sites in their areas of interest. The library offers a variety of research services to faculty. Please see separate document for sample research questions.
- ▶ Preparation of many prospective faculty bibliographies for active Faculty Appointments Committee.